

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SEC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARAE-00 /053 W

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O 261700Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1558

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 4082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: ODUBER DENIES U.S. PRESSURE ON EXTRADITION LAW

REF: SAN JOSE 4075

1. EXCELSIOR OF SEPTEMBER 26 REPORTS COMMENTS BY
PRESIDENT ODUBER MOMENTS BEFORE HE LEFT FOR SWEDEN ON
SEPTEMBER 25TH DENYING THAT AMBASSADOR TODMAN HAD
TRIED TO PRESSURE HIM ON THE VESCO EXTRADITION ISSUE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS, ODUBER WAS
REPORTED TO HAVE SAID:

A. "THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ACCEPT, NOR WOULD
AMBASSADOR TODMAN DARE TO PRESSURE IN THIS CASE OR IN ANY
OTHER."

B. "IT IS NOT TRUE THAT AMBASSADOR TODMAN HAS
MADE ANY PRESSURES FOR CHANGES IN THE TREATY OR LAWS
WHICH REGULATE EXTRADITION BETWEEN COSTA RICA AND THE U.S."

C. "WE (ODUBER AND TODMAN) HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THESE
INSTRUMENTS (EXTRADITION TREATY AND LAW) AND RECENTLY
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AMBASSADOR TODMAN HAS SHOWN ME SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE

CHANGES. I SUBMITTED THESE TO A STUDY BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE AND YESTERDAY THEY GAVE ME THEIR OPINION."

2. IN A SEPARATE STORY THE SAME DAY ALL THREE MORNING PAPERS REPORTED IMPROMPTU COMMENTS (BY ACTING PRESIDENT FERNANDO GUZMAN MATA) OBVIOUSLY PROVOKED BY PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT THE ORIGINAL EXCELSIOR STORY (REFTEL). GUZMAN WHO SIGNED THE PUBLIC PETITION CALLING FOR VESCO'S EXPULSION LAST DECEMBER SAID HE STILL MAINTAINED THAT VESCO'S PRESENCE IN COSTA RICA WAS NOT GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY. HE REPORTEDLY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE TO EXPEL OR EXTRADITE VESCO, BUT WHAT WAS NECESSARY WAS A REFORM OF THE CURRENT EXTRADITION LAW. HE ADDED HE HOPED THE CURRENT EXTRADITION REFORM BILL PENDING IN THE ASSEMBLY WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY GRATIFIED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS CLEARED THE AIR. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET ON ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OPINION.
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